The Foremost Jews of To-day.

BY FRITZ MORRIS.

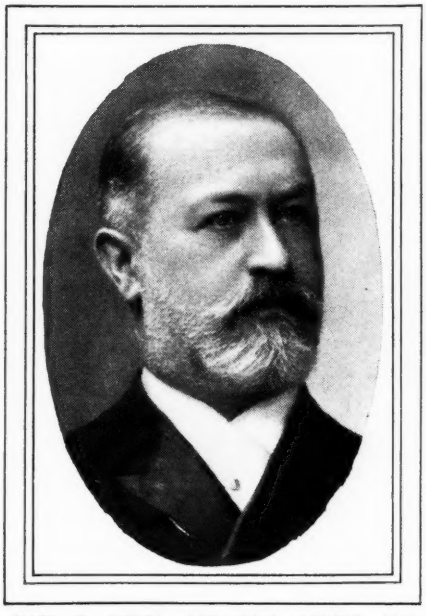
THE LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THAT WONDERFUL RACE WHICH FOR NEARLY TWO THOUSAND YEARS HAS PRESERVED ITS IDENTITY WITHOUT A COUNTRY OF ITS OWN, AND WHICH, IN SPITE OF PREJUDICE AND PERSECUTION, HAS ACHIEVED WEALTH AND POWER IN ALMOST ALL CIVILIZED LANDS.

WHILE it is an indisputable fact that, go where one may, a certain prejudice will be found to obtain again the Jewish people, it is equally certain that in every country, and in every walk of life, men of Hebrew race stand preeminent in the front rank. This is not due to any favor shown them, but has been accomplished by pluck and perseverance, by brawn and brain.

A survey of present day instances may prove of value in pointing a lesson of industry and endurance. In our own country there is not a State, and hardly a city of importance, whose Jewish citizens have not furnished their quota of public men. Long and honorable is the list of those who have served in the army and navy, in the diplomatic and civil services of our government.

PROMINENT AMERICAN HEBREWS.

There could be no better example of the Jew in public life than Oscar S. Straus, of New York. Mr. Straus was

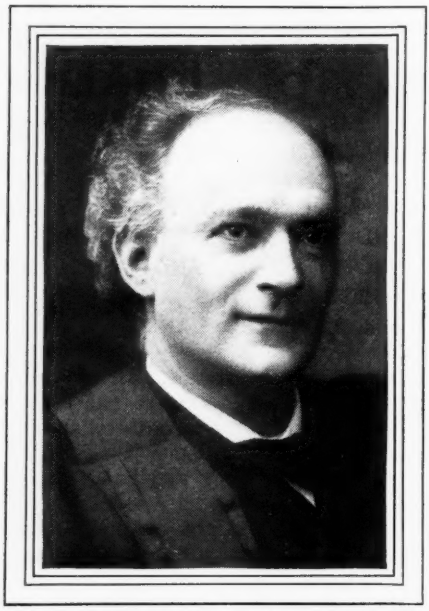


JACOB H. SCHIFF, NEW YORK BANKER AND PHILANTHROPIST.

OSCAR S. STRAUS, FORMERLY UNITED STATES MINISTER TO TURKEY.

TWO REPRESENTATIVE AMERICAN HEBREWS.

From photographs by Dupont, New York.



DAVID LEVENTRITT, JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW YORK.

From a photograph by Fredricks, New York.

appointed United States minister to Turkey by President Cleveland, but he was more signally honored in being reappointed by President McKinley, for it is seldom that a Democrat is allowed to retain so important a post under a Republican administration. Mr. Straus is a prominent business man and an author of ability, and is at present a representative of the United States upon the International Peace Tribunal.

A Hebrew precept says: "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed that the field bringeth forth year by year." There are wealthy Jews in New York, where wealthy Jews are many, who live up to the letter of the law. A typical representative of this class is Jacob H. Schiff, whose name is as famous in the charitable world as in that of finance. It is said that Mr. Schiff is a contributor to every local Hebrew charity, besides aiding many non-sectarian societies, and that the total amount of his gifts is more than a hundred thousand dollars annually; but most of his benefactions are anonymous.

Some thirty years ago there was a young business man in the shoe-manufacturing town of Lynn, Massachusetts, whose neighbors used to see him, in the early morning, and again when the day's work was done, walking up and down his garden with a book in his hand. That was how David Leventritt learned the law. Giving up his business in Lynn, he came to New York, was admitted to the bar, and became noted as one of the ablest pleaders practising in the courts of the metropolis. As a justice of the State Supreme Court, he has

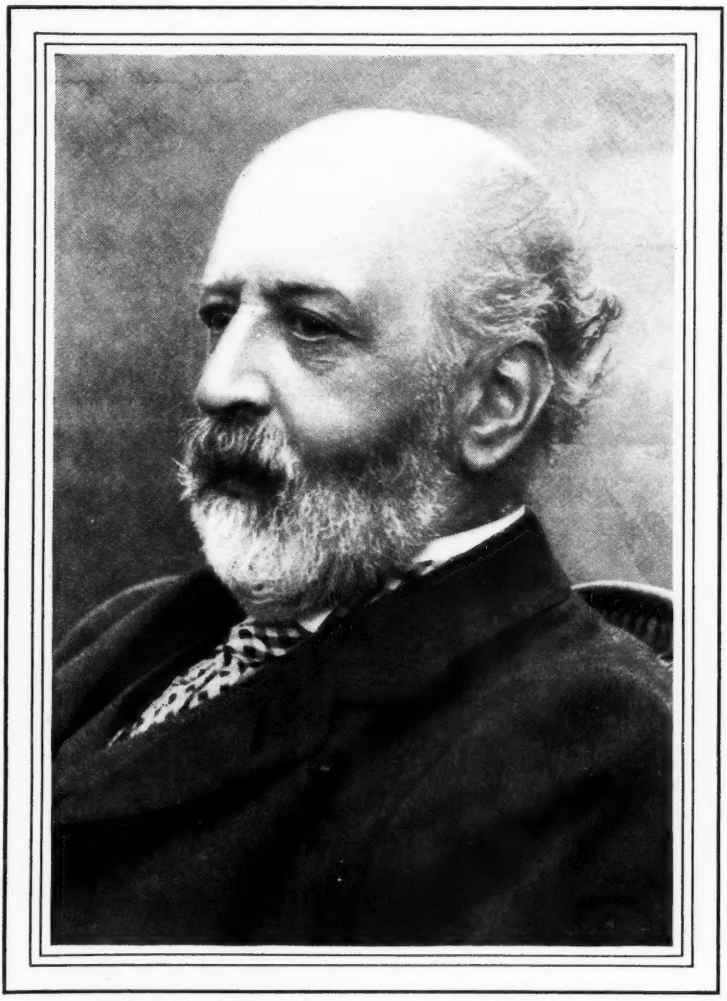
COLONEL A. E. W. GOLDSMID, A PROMINENT JEWISH OFFICER IN THE BRITISH ARMY.

From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, London.

made an equally high reputation on the bench during the past five years.

BRITISH JEWS IN HIGH PLACES.

In medieval England Jews suffered terrible persecutions, but the England of to-day is a land where the rights and liberties of the individual are carefully respected, and where the members of the ancient race suffer from no discrimination against them. Many of them have risen to foremost places in British public life, and in society, art, and literature, as well as in finance and commerce. The name of the late Lord Beaconsfield will at once suggest itself. The most brilliant of England's premiers since the days of Pitt had no lack of bitter political foes, who were ready to use almost any weapon against him; but when they asked "Can a Jew be a patriot?" there was no doubt as to the answer given by the voters of Britain.



NATHAN MEYER, BARON ROTHSCHILD, HEAD OF THE FAMOUS ROTHSCHILD BANKING HOUSE, AND ONE OF THE FOREMOST MEN OF ENGLAND.

From a photograph by Russell, London.

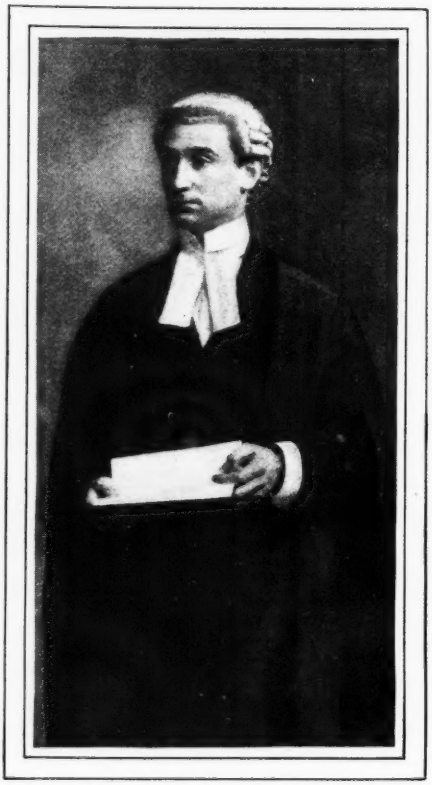
English Jews are to be found in the House of Lords, in the House of Commons, and in the privy council. Most

SIR MARCUS SAMUEL, LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, THE FIFTH OF HIS RACE TO HOLD THAT HISTORIC OFFICE.
From a photograph.

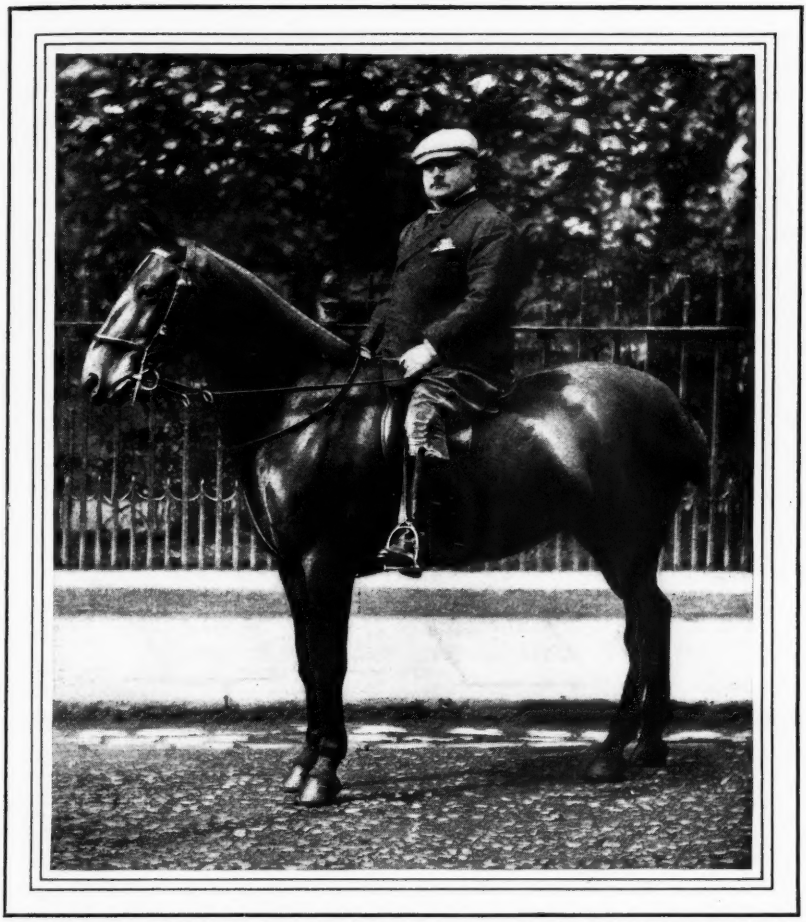
widely known of them all, probably, is Lord Rothschild, a man of vast wealth and many charities, a personal friend of the king's, and the head of the greatest private banking-house in the world. The name of the Rothschilds is a proverbial synonym for financial solidity and conservatism. In London, a city of old-established firms, there are few who have occupied their premises longer than the famous Jewish bankers. The founder of the English branch made St. Swithin's Lane his home, as well as his office, for many years, and when he died abroad his body was brought there to lie in state. His grandsons have great mansions in the West End, and splendid country estates outside of London; but they zealously maintain the traditions of their business house. Its attendants are men who have the intensely respectable air of old and trusted retainers, open fires burn in the comfortable waiting-rooms, and there is a particularly rigorous rule against smoking anywhere except in the private offices of the heads of the firm.

The prominence and influence of the Hebrew element in the business world of London may be gaged by the fact that within the past half century the English capital has had five Jewish lord mayors—Sir David Salomons, Sir Benjamin Phillips, Sir Henry Isaacs, Sir George Faudel-Phillips, and the present tenant of the Mansion House, Sir Marcus Samuel. Of these five, the two last-named have been specially distinguished. Both of them hold the rank of baronet, making their titles hereditary. Sir George Faudel-Phillips held office in the year of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, and took a prominent part in that historic function. He also received one of the highest Indian decorations, the G. C. I. E., in acknowledgment of his services in raising the famine fund of 1897.

Sir Marcus Samuel's tenure, now



RUFUS ISAACS, K. C., A JEWISH BARRISTER WHO IS REGARDED AS THE CLEVEREST COMMERCIAL LAWYER IN LONDON.
From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, London.



SIR EDWARD LEVY-LAWSON, RECENTLY RAISED TO THE PEERAGE AS LORD BURNHAM, PRINCIPAL OWNER OF THE LONDON "DAILY TELEGRAPH," AND ONE OF THE MANY HEBREWS WHO ARE POWERS IN THE WORLD OF JOURNALISM.

From a photograph by Barraud, London.

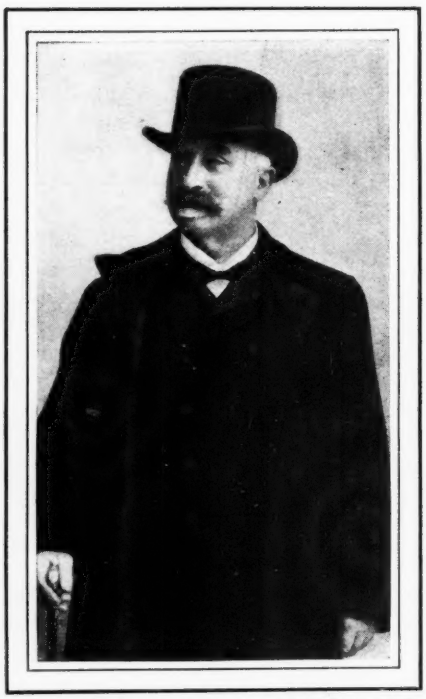
drawing to a close, has been no less active and brilliant. An English newspaper, in recording the fact that he recently entertained King Edward and Queen Alexandra, and that he was shortly to receive official calls from President Loubet of France and King Victor Emmanuel of Italy, observed: "What a pity that the Czar will not visit England during the Jewish lord mayor's term of office!"

Besides the lord mayor, the present mayor of the most important of the London boroughs, that of Westminster, is a Jew—Captain Herbert Jessel, who sits in the House of Commons as member for St. Pancras. Another typical Jew among the rising men of the day in England is Rufus Isaacs, who is one of the youngest wearers of the coveted silken gown of the "K. C.," and is regarded as the cleverest commercial lawyer in London.

British Jews are well represented in the army. There are about three hundred who figure in the official returns of the line and the militia as being of the ancient faith; and this alone, without including the volunteers, and without reckoning those who return themselves as belonging to other churches, is a very fair percentage of the English-born He-

brew community, which is not estimated at more than eighty thousand souls. Lord Roberts, some months ago, attended a military service held in the London Central Synagogue, and afterwards expressed his gratification that he had thus been able "to associate himself with the soldiers of the Jewish faith, who share with their comrades of other creeds the spirit of loyalty and patriotism."

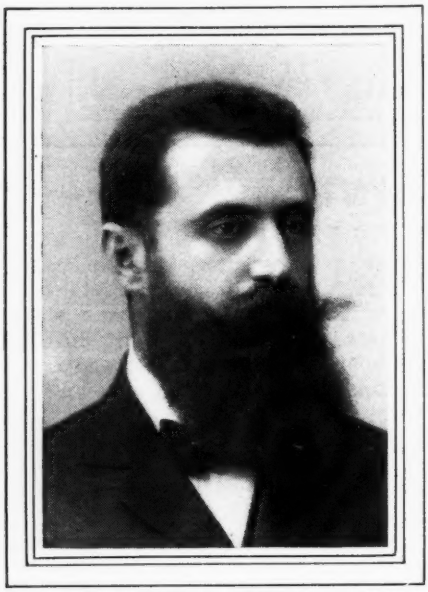
The most prominent Jewish officer in the British forces is probably Colonel A. E. W. Goldsmid, who held important staff commands during the war in South Africa, and who has a long record of service in India and at home.



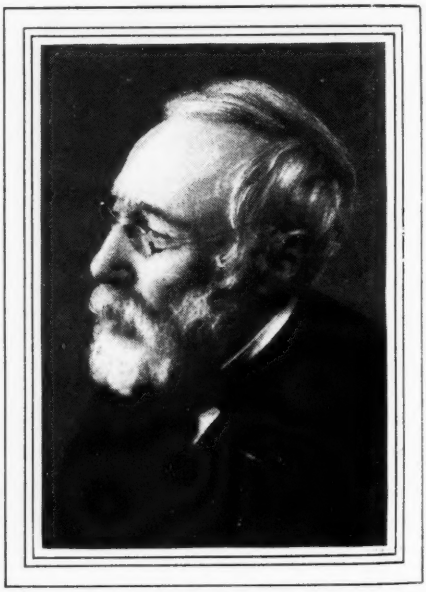
GENERAL OTTOLENGHI, ITALIAN MINISTER OF WAR.
From a photograph by Rossi, Genoa.

THE JEWS OF ITALY AND FRANCE.

Next to England, the European country that accords its Jewish citizens the most complete measure of legal and social equality, and the most honorable share in the national life, is Italy. Not long ago, when King Victor Emmanuel was in Florence, he gave half an hour's audience to the chief rabbi of the local synagogue, Dr. S.

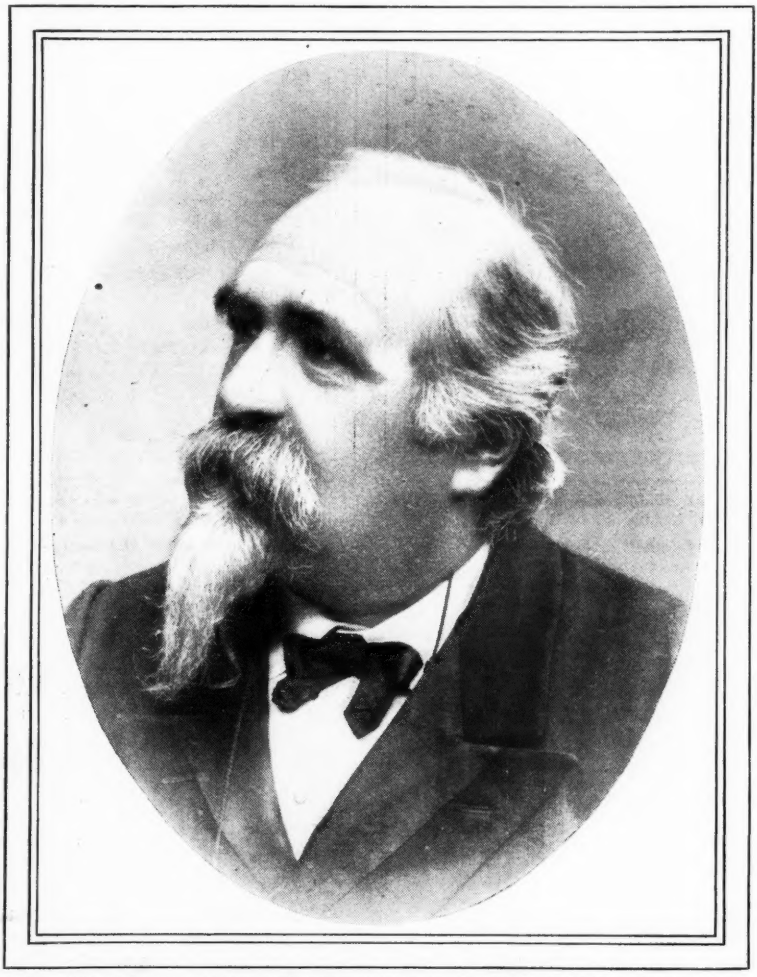


DR. THEODORE HERZL, LEADER OF THE SO-CALLED ZIONIST MOVEMENT.
From a photograph by Löwy, Vienna.



JOSEF ISRAELS, THE FAMOUS DUTCH LANDSCAPE AND FIGURE PAINTER.
From a photograph.

H. Margulies. The learned divine and the scholarly young sovereign talked of the latter's visit to Palestine, discussed Hebrew literature, and spoke of the position held by the rabbi's coreligionists in various countries. Both agreed that nowhere is their standing higher than in Italy, and the king expressed his earnest wish that such might always be the case.



LUIGI LUZZATTI, AN ITALIAN JEW WHO IS FAMOUS AS AN ECONOMIST, AND WHO DID MUCH FOR HIS COUNTRY'S FINANCES AS MINISTER OF THE TREASURY.

From a photograph by Garutti, Treviso.

General Ottolenghi, the Italian minister of war, is a Jew both by birth and by faith, and the only Hebrew now holding a cabinet office in Europe. He was a favorite aide-de-camp of the late King Humbert, and was for a time military governor to his son, the present sovereign. Equally high political rank was held a few years ago by Luigi Luzzatti, who did much for Italy's finances during his tenure of her treasury portfolio. Signor Luzzatti was one of the delegates who negotiated the very important treaty of commerce with France—a service for which President Loubet granted him the grand cross of the Legion of Honor; and when King Victor Emmanuel established the Order of Labor,

LUDWIG MAX GOLDBERGER, ROYAL PRIVY COUNCILLOR OF COMMERCE.

From a photograph by Schaarwächter, Berlin.

PROFESSOR ALBERT FRAENKEL, A LEADER IN GERMAN MEDICAL SCIENCE.

From a photograph by Höffert, Berlin.

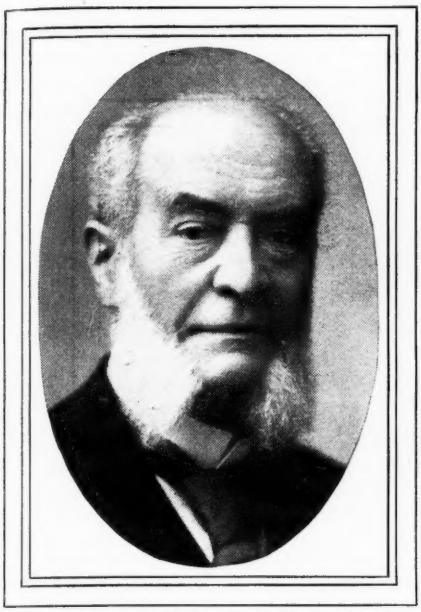
he was one of its first recipients, in recognition of his work as a founder of people's banks and cooperative societies. At the time of writing, it is announced that he will come to America to attend the international press congress in St. Louis.

France, too, has a former cabinet official of Jewish blood — Edouard Millaud, who has twice served as minister of public works. There is a certain amount of so-called anti-Semitism among some classes of Frenchmen, but Jews are prominent in almost every field of activity in Paris. There is one, Fernande Alphaudery, on the bench of the supreme tribunal of the republic, the Cour de Cassation. Another, Maurice Loewy, a famous scientist and inventor, is director of the Paris Observatory. Dreyfus was hounded by haters of his race, but there are in the French army some three hundred avowed Jews holding commissions, among them colonels and a brigadier-general. No Jew

LUDWIG FULDA, THE WELL-KNOWN PLAYWRIGHT AND LITTÉRATEUR.

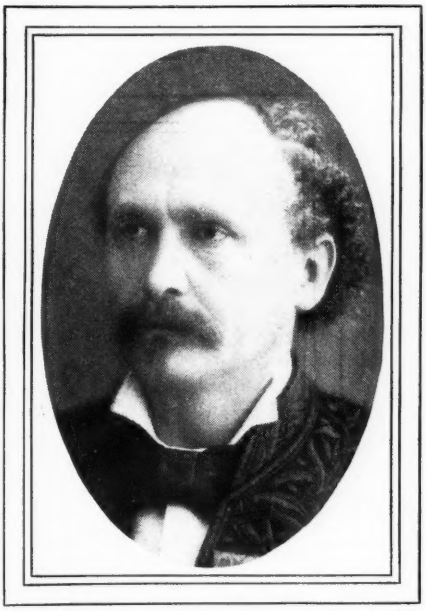
From a photograph.

THREE PROMINENT HEBREWS OF GERMANY.



FERNANDE ALPHAUDERY, A JUDGE OF THE COUR DE CASSATION.

From a photograph by Petit, Paris.



MAURICE LOEWY, DIRECTOR OF THE OBSERVATORY OF PARIS.

From a photograph.

has penetrated the sanctuary of the diplomatic service; but everywhere else they are to be found in prominent places. It is worth remembering that Gambetta was a Jew; so was Baron Haussmann, the rebuilder of Paris.

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN HEBREWS.

East of the Rhine, the position of the Hebrew becomes less favorable. In Germany, Jews are rigidly excluded from the commissioned ranks of both army and navy. In civil life, however, they have won remarkable success in many lines. There may be cited, as instances, Alfred Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American steamship company, whom the Kaiser regards as his right-hand man in pushing his ambitious schemes of colonial and commercial expansion; in finance, Carl Furstenberg, Ludwig Max Goldberger, and Baron Bleichroder; in medicine, Professor Albert Fraenkel; in art, Max von Liebermann; in literature, Ludwig Fulda.

ÉDOUARD MILLAUD, FORMERLY MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS.

From a photograph by Pirou, Paris.

THREE PROMINENT HEBREWS OF FRANCE.

It is strange that in Austria, where anti-Semitism is a much stronger political force than in Germany, Jews should be well represented in the army, even in its highest ranks. It is said that there are no less than two thousand Jewish officers in the Emperor Francis Joseph's forces. Most distinguished of them, probably, is General von Eis, a veteran of half a dozen campaigns, and an intimate of the Austrian Kaiser, who personally pinned on the general's coat the medal that is the most prized of the many he wears. "For conspicuous and extraordinary valor on the battlefield" is the inscription upon it.

ALFRED BALLIN, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE HAMBURG-AMERICAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY, A HEBREW WHO IS THE FRIEND AND POLITICAL ALLY OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

From a photograph by Van Bosch, Wiesbaden.

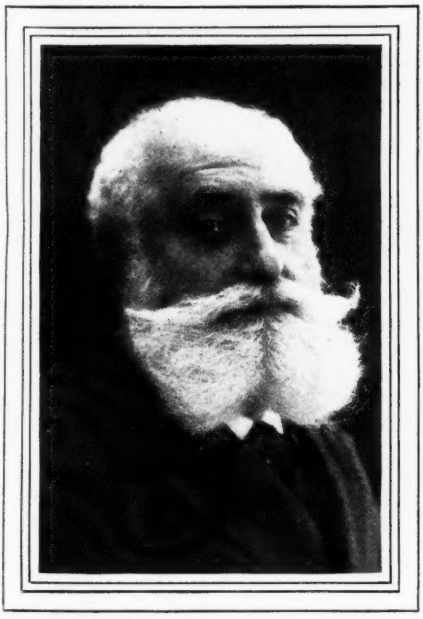
The dual empire has produced at least two other Jews whose names are known all over the world. One is Adolf von Sonnenthal, who is the foremost actor of the German-speaking stage, and who was recently ennobled by a special

imperial grant. Another is the clever physician and journalist known as Max Nordau, author of "Degeneration," a book that had a deep influence on modern thought. Dr. Nordau has lived in Paris for twenty years as the representative of a German newspaper, and he has been ranked with Heine and the late Henri de Blowitz—both of them Jews, by the way—as one of the most celebrated foreign correspondents in Parisian journalism, but he was born in Budapest, the son of a rabbi, Dr. Gabriel Südfeld.

ADOLF VON SONNENTHAL, THE FOREMOST ACTOR OF THE GERMAN-SPEAKING STAGE.

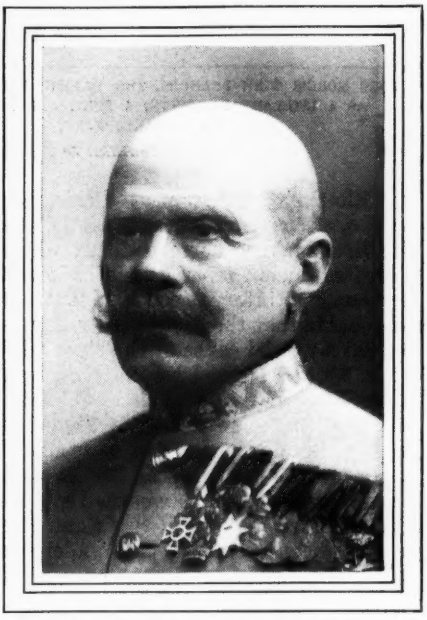
From a photograph by Szekely, Vienna.

It may be observed here that the Hebrew element is extremely strong in the newspaper world—so strong that it has been said, and with a certain measure of truth, that the Jewish race controls the press of Europe. Lord Rothschild is believed to be the largest stockholder in the London *Times*, and of late years many of that famous journal's leading employees, besides M. de Blowitz, have been Jews.



DR. MAX SIMON NORDAU, PHYSICIAN, JOURNALIST, AND AUTHOR.

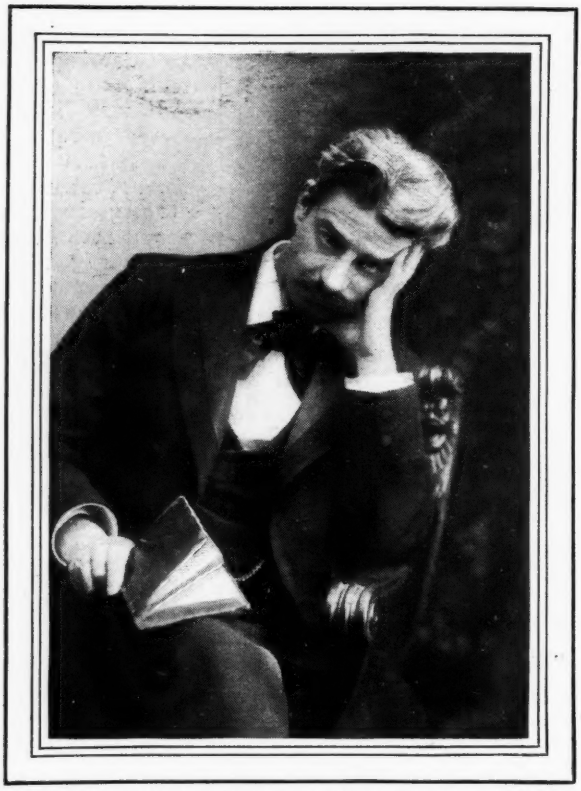
From a photograph by Gerschel, Paris.



GENERAL VON EIS, A DISTINGUISHED OFFICER OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

From a photograph by Pietzner, Vienna.

THREE WELL-KNOWN AUSTRIAN HEBREWS.



GEORG MORRIS COHN BRANDES, THE DANISH JEW WHO IS FAMOUS AS A LITERARY HISTORIAN, A POET, AND AN AUTHORITY ON SHAKESPEARE.

From a photograph by Elliott & Fry, London.

De Blowitz' successor at Paris, Mr. Lavino, is one of these; another is Mr. Braham, the correspondent whose recent expulsion from Russia bade fair to become an international incident. It is probable that the fact of his race was at least a partial cause of the rigor with which he was treated by the Muscovite authorities. The *Daily Telegraph*, which perhaps stands next to the *Times* in prestige among the London newspapers, is mainly the property of Sir Edward Levy-Lawson, whose name was Levy before he added its present suffix, and who has just been created a peer under the style and title of Lord Burnham. On the European continent, the Vienna *Fremdenblatt* is one of many prominent journals controlled by Jewish owners. And the Hebrew influence is equally in evidence in New York, where the *World* and the *Times*, two of the three leading daily newspapers, are owned by members of the ancient race.

A DARK SPOT ON THE JEWISH MAP.

The position of the Jews in Russia is so sore a subject that the less we speak of it the better. Suffice it to say that the Muscovite government's attitude toward its Hebrew subjects is practically that which the western nations abandoned when they emerged from the darkness of medievalism into the light of modernity. Responsibility for this condition of things does not rest with the Czar; the fact that it exists is one of many proofs that his supposed autocratic power is paralyzed by the reactionary bureaucracy that stands between him and the reforms he would fain inaugurate. There are Jews who have found high favor with him—such as M. Warshavski, the banker, Dr. Drabkin, and especially Baron Günsberg, the financier and philanthropist.

Baron Günsberg's career is a proof of the fact that the most severe repression cannot wholly prevent the Jew from finding his way to the front. He is a Hebrew of the strictest and most orthodox type, who has made no concession to Russian prejudice. His home is a truly Jewish one of the old type, where not only are Sabbaths and festivals scrupulously observed, but even the smallest rites and customs are faithfully kept up. The baron was formerly a member of the city council of St. Petersburg, but lost his seat under a new regulation excluding Jews from municipal office. He has served, however, on several government commissions, and heads of bureaus have consulted him as

an unofficial representative of his race. When he celebrated his seventieth birthday, last January, several of the Czar's ministers called upon him in person, and the emperor sent an aide-de-camp to offer congratulations.

LEADING JEWS OF OTHER LANDS.

Turkey is not regarded as an enlightened country, but the position of the Jew is better in the Sultan's dominions than in those of the Czar. Among the Turkish Hebrews who hold high positions in various fields are Isaac Bey, an admiral in the navy; Elias Pasha, oculist to the Sultan; and Castro Bey, a leading physician.

Three famous Jews who have not as yet been mentioned are George Brandes, the Danish scholar and historian, whose book on Shakespeare is probably the best summary of all that we know of the great Elizabethan dramatist; Josef Israels, the Dutch landscape and figure painter, a veteran who stands in the very first rank of European artists, and Dr. Herzl, of Vienna, the leader of the so-called Zionist movement, which aims to colonize Palestine with Hebrew settlers.

In conclusion, I will give three quotations which are significant of the position held by the Jews in America two centuries ago and the place they have gained to-day. One is from the records of a meeting of the New York common council, in September, 1685:

> The petition of Saul Browne recommended by the governor was read, and the Councill's opinion indorsed thereupon was that noe Jew ought to sell by retaile within this Citty, but may by whole sale if the Governor think fit to permit the same.

The second is from a recent utterance of a well-known New Yorker—not a Jew himself:

> The Jew crowds to the front in everything. I, for one, am a firm believer in the immigrant Jew and his boy. Ignorant they are, but with a thirst for knowledge that surmounts any barrier. The boy takes all the prizes in the school. His comrades sneer that he will not fight. Neither will he, when there is nothing to be gained by it; yet in defense of his rights there is in all the world no such fighter as he. Literally, he will die fighting by inches. Witness his strikes! I believe that should the time come when the country needs fighting men, the son of the despised Jew will resurrect on American soil—the first that bade him welcome—the old Maccabee type, and set an example for all the rest of us to follow.

And in support of this I will quote a couple of sentences from one of President Roosevelt's speeches:

> At Santiago one of the best officers in the regular regiments who fought beside me was a Hebrew. One of the commanders of the ships that did so well in the blockade of the Cuban coast was a Hebrew.

It may be of interest to add that the officers referred to were Major Ebstein, of the Nineteenth Infantry, and Commander Adolph Marix, United States Navy.

A MAN AND A WOMAN.

I.—HE.

I SAILED the silver lake with her to-day—
  Her that is famed for riches of the earth;
But I, who love her, hid my love away,
  And hushed my yearning with a careless mirth.

I conned the ease and comfort of her life;
  Her beauty, could it bear the storms with me?
Dear heart, I dare not claim thee bride and wife,
  For I am wedded unto poverty!

II.—SHE.

I sailed the silver lake with him to-day—
  Him that is famed for gallantry and truth;
I saw his manly muscles lift and play,
  Tanned by the sun, and lean and strong with youth.

I measured out the riches of his life—
  A heart content, and youth and strength and health;
Oh, love, be quick to claim me bride and wife,
  And let me share the bounty of thy wealth!

Aloysius Coll.